

Today in Corps history:
Dec. 19, 1944: MAG-12 Corsairs blew up Japanese supply dumps at Palompon, Leyte.

Source: Marine Corps History

FAST FACT



District News: America's oldest public high school honors Corps, see Page 3

Photo Feature: Celebrating the season, see Page 4 - 5

Sports: Depot Marines pass, punt, rush over Beaufort PALS teams, see Page 7

Inside



Marine swims way to victory in recruit training

Private First Class Robert Trego, Platoon 1104, Delta Co., graduates today after a 13-week journey to become a Marine. So far, his Marine Corps experience ...

see Page 7

Volume 55 Number 48

Serving the Marines and Sailors of MCRD/ERR Parris Island, S.C.

December 19, 2003

Depot News

DEPOT TAX CENTER SET TO OPEN JAN. 12

The Depot Tax Center will open Jan. 12 to help eligible personnel file their income taxes for free. Tax Center staff have completed training from H&R Block and the Internal Revenue Service. The Tax Center will be open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. - noon.

For more information, call 228-4851.

USCB TO OFFER NEW LUNCHTIME CLASSES

The University of South Carolina-Beaufort is offering ENGL 102 - Composition and MCMT 300 - Careers in Business from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Air Station beginning Jan. 12.

For more information, call USCB at 228-7499.

RMC HOSTING SPECIAL HOLIDAY SERVICES

The Religious Ministry Center will hold special services t on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Protestant services will be held Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Depot Chapel and again Dec. 31 at 10:30 p.m. at the RMC.

Roman Catholic services will be held Wednesday at 11 p.m. at the Depot Chapel, Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at the Depot Chapel and 10:45 a.m. in the Recruit Chapel.

A Roman Catholic service will also be held Jan. 1 at 9:30 a.m. in the Depot Chapel.

For more information, call the RMC at 228-3533.

On the Web

DEPARTMENT OF ED. OFFERS SOUND ADVICE

The Department of Education's Web site provides users with an in-depth look into all levels of the American education system, and provides current and prospective students with links to financial aide information, new educational standards and degree plans.

The Web site, www.ed.gov, also provides parents with advice on educating their children and need-to-know news and information on today's most pressing topics.

Out in Town

FREE PARKING IN DOWNTOWN BEAUFORT

The City of Beaufort will offer free holiday parking in downtown Beaufort through Dec. 31. All on-street meters and public parking lots will be free.

HILTON HEAD MEDICAL CENTER 5K RUN/WALK

Hilton Head Medical Center and Clinics host their Jingle Bell 5K Road Race and Health Walk Saturday at 9 a.m. All standard male and female running divisions will be available.

To register, call Bear Foot Sports at 379-3440.

Weather



Friday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 54 Low 36
Saturday
Mostly Sunny
Hi 62 Low 38
Sunday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 64 Low 39

THE BOOT

"We Make Marines"

PIFD stresses home safety during holidays

CPL. ALISHA R. FITZGERALD

STAFF WRITER

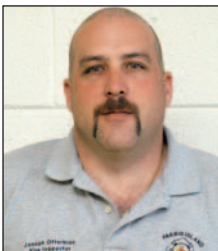
As Christmas lights and decorations adorn city streets and homes this holiday season, fire prevention for Tri-Command personnel becomes paramount.

The Parris Island Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division has compiled some

guidelines for Depot families to keep their homes safe from fire throughout the holidays and into the New Year.

According to the United States Fire Administration, fires cause 2,600 injuries and \$930 million in damages each holiday season.

"People do abnormal things this time of year — things that are unsafe, like lighting a lot of candles or overloading



"It only takes one little spark, and an entire room can be fully involved in about 47 seconds."

— Fire Inspector Joseph Otterbine, PIFD

outlets," said Fire Inspector Geoffrey Lee, Fire Prevention Division, PIFD.

One of the most dangerous situations results from the improper care of live trees in

the home, according to the inspectors at Fire Prevention. They agreed that it is the number one cause of fires during the holidays.

"It only takes one little spark, and an entire room can be fully involved in about 47 seconds," said Fire Inspector Joseph Otterbine, Fire Prevention Division, PIFD.

see FIRE, Page 6

Another year sets on The Boot ...



Cpl. Jennifer Brofer

As the sun sets on 3rd Bn. Pond, so ends another year of publication for The Boot. The staff wishes to extend a reminder to their readers that The Boot will not publish a paper for the weeks of Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. The next edition will be published Jan. 9.

BMC takes show on road to deliver care to local children

PATRICIA BINNS

NHB PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

The annual flu season has arrived. On a daily basis, newspaper and television stories keep us informed of the latest statistics concerning the spread and severity of this year's flu outbreak.

The Centers for Disease Control advises that the single best way to prevent the flu is for individuals, especially people at high risk for serious complications from the flu, to get vaccinated each fall.

Getting children vaccinated often means a trip to a local hospital or clinic, which requires time out of school for children and time out of work for parents. To help alleviate some of this inconvenience, Branch Medical Clinic staff decided to take their "show on the road."

This week, children at the local DoD schools at Laurel Bay were able to get their flu shots at school during a day-long clinic.

"The teachers received their shots last week at the schools and asked if a similar program could be set up for the children next year," said Navy Lt. Brian Atchison, one of the nurses administering the shots. "Luckily, we were able to

fulfill their request this year."

Children and their parents started lining up at 8 a.m., and by 9:15 the staff had administered 110 flu shots. Adults who still needed the shot were also able

to participate in the program. All received a lollipop and a sticker for enduring the "sting" of the shot.

Influenza, more commonly referred to as flu, is a highly infectious disease of the lungs, and it can lead to pneumonia. Each year about 114,000 people in the United States are hospitalized and about 36,000 die of the flu.

see FLU, Page 6



Lance Cpl. Brian Kester

The Liberty Belles perform during the USO-style Christmas show at the Lyceum Saturday.

Liberty Belles ring in holidays

LANCE CPL. BRIAN KESTER

STAFF WRITER

The United Service Organization's show troupe, the Liberty Belles, along with the Parris Island Jazz Band, performed a USO-style show straight from the 1940s at the Depot Lyceum Saturday.

The 2003 Christmas Concert, hosted by Brig. Gen. Joseph J. McMenamin, commanding general MCRD/ERR, entertained members of the Tri-Command with performances reminiscent of the World War II era.

The Christmas concert poster read, "Take a trip back in time to the 1940's." That is what the performers tried to do for their audience. The Lyceum was filled with

historical items, the band was performing in World War II era utilities and the Liberty Belles belted out songs reminiscent of the time.

The show started with the band playing Christmas music and a Bob Hope style comic monologue, preformed by Master Sgt. Ronald R. Hackler, staff NCOIC for the band.

"It was set up like an old USO-style show," said Hackler. "Bob Hope was a big part of those World War II shows and we set out to mimic that performance."

After the introduction, the Liberty Belles took the stage. "Hopefully we will bring back fond memories to our GI's," said Victoria Reed, soprano and producer for the Liberty Belles. "We are taking it back to the 40s. We do

patriotic style shows with a little from the 50s, and Saturday we did a Christmas section."

In between each section of the show, Hackler's Bob Hope-styled performances put the audience at ease while the troupe prepared for the next piece.

"Our pieces range from patriotic to nostalgic and the USO has been bringing this kind of entertainment and services to troops since 1941," said Linda Sue Moshier, alto for the Belles.

"It is nice to let some of the younger generations see some of the history of music," said Belles' soprano Jennifer Johns.

The group hopes that performances like these will bring new awareness to their performance style.